



HI HUB

hilights

A MAGAZINE FOR HISTON & IMPINGTON



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hilights

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The Porterhouse in Willingham really has it all when it comes to the perfect Christmas dining venue.

With its twinkling lights, central firepit and festive music their magical 9m tipi really is a unique, cosy and social space. Seating up to 34, it's available to book by table or as a private venue. Fully heated and with complimentary hot bottles & blankets, it really is a unique Christmas offering in Cambridgeshire.

From their friendly staff at the bar, a varied home cooked menu, eclectic background music and their relaxed but efficient service, dining and drinking here is known for being an informal yet enjoyable experience . Serving meals noon to 9pm Monday to Saturday and noon to 6pm on Sundays, the team adds: "Our special Festive Menu is available to everyone, even walk-ins, throughout December meaning you don't have to order in advance or even commit to a set number of courses, just mix and match from our festive and main menu and if you haven't yet visited, we are definitely worth a drive out"



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Latest news

Hello Christmas, goodbye HILights

We are delighted to bring this special Christmas edition of HILights magazine to the Histon & Impington community again this year. But this pleasure is tinged with sadness, as this is the very last edition of HILights.

If we were to continue, we would be making a loss on each issue so we have no choice but to call time on this venture and focus our energy on HI HUB.

No longer viable

HILights was launched in September 2023 as a sister publication to the hugely popular online news and information service HI HUB. The aim was to ensure that everyone in the village and beyond could read more about life in our thriving community – whether or not they have access to the internet or sign up for the weekly emails.

We also aimed to provide a high-quality publication where local shops, traders and other businesses could promote themselves professionally and effectively to the village community.

Last year the Parish Council supported the launch of HILights, using it to publish their news and information. But they have now decided, in principle, to revert to producing their own publication, Hislmp News, and use that instead to share both Parish Council news and news from community organisations.

“Our pledge to residents is that we will do everything in our power to keep them connected.”

This decision, and the associated loss of their financial backing, means that HILights is no longer viable. Guided by the responses to our readership survey earlier this year, the board has decided that the priority now is to ensure a stable and long-term future for the digital service HI HUB. If not yet a subscriber, head to our Home page at www.hihub.info and sign up for the weekly emails which will ensure you stay in-the-know about what's going on in this very special village.

Finding alternatives

Whilst HI HUB reaches thousands of residents every week, it doesn't reach the 'digitally disconnected' – including many older residents in the village. We know how much they have appreciated HILights, and we offer our sincere apologies to them.



Our pledge to these residents is that we will do everything in our power to keep them connected. The screen in the library window helps, but we want to do more. We are already exploring the possibility of finding a sponsor to support a monthly printed round-up of HI HUB news and features that have appeared online. If we can get that off the ground, we will be asking friends, family and neighbours to take copies to anyone who would value it.

For local traders – and residents who want to 'shop local' – we are investing

in improvements to the HI HUB website. Thousands of people read HI HUB every week and our aim is to create some very visible space for the valued shops and traders who serve our village, enabling them to boost their profile with readers.

To any advertisers who have already booked advertising space in future issues of HILights, we also apologise that we can no longer provide this service. All will be offered a refund; none will be out of pocket; and we will be speaking to them about how we can best support them in future using HI HUB.

And finally...

To conclude, we want to say a huge thank you to everyone who has made it such a pleasure to serve the community with HILights magazine.

That includes Kate, dealing with the HILights admin; Lucy, leading on editorial; Ruth, reaching out to advertisers; Dave, designing the pages; and Mike, handling the print. You are all true professionals and the quality of the magazine is testament to your amazing skills and efforts.

Last, but by no means least, we are indebted to the distribution Zone Managers and the very many members of the community who have trudged the streets with heavy bags to deliver HILights to everyone's door.

We are indebted to each and every person who was involved in making HILights happen.

As for us, the volunteer board, we tried our very best to let HILights fly, but it wasn't to be. Rest assured though, with your support and enthusiasm, HI HUB will continue to perform its role as a vital communication channel serving the village.

Merry Christmas!

All that remains now is for us to wish everyone in our wonderful, friendly and supportive community a fabulous Christmas and a happy New Year.

We look forward to building on our relationship with you all.

Amanda, Brian, Chris, Denis, Liz

Christmas diary

What's on this Christmas?

From early-bird stocking shopping to wreath workshops and library craft sessions, here's your indispensable guide to the Christmas goings-on in H&I this festive season...



Wednesday 20 November

Opportunity Playgroup Christmas shopping Evening

Saint Andrew's Centre, Histon (7pm)

Come along and grab a gift from stalls selling everything from sweet treats and hampers to knitted gifts and nearly-new. Plus there's a raffle and tombola if you're feeling lucky. Entry and refreshments are free. All proceeds go to support local children with disabilities.

Thursday 21 November

Late night Christmas Shopping

Histon High Street (6pm–9pm)

Including Topiary Tree and Gin House Flowers. Check in stores to see who is participating and see Gin House Flowers' website for details of wreath making classes throughout November and December.

www.ginhouseflowers.co.uk; <http://www.topiarytree.co.uk>



Friday 22 November

Norfolk Christmas Lights Express

Pick up Salvation Army Hall, Impington Lane (11.45am)

Hop aboard the Norfolk Lights Express, an immersive wintertime experience for the whole family – from Impington to Sheringham, Holt and back.
histon@salvationarmy.org.uk

Saturday 23 November

Christmas Fayre

Histon Methodist Church (9.30am–12.30pm)

Cambridge Cats Protection Christmas Fayre

Saint Andrews Centre, Histon (10am–1pm)

Come and buy Christmas items, bric-a-brac, cakes and refreshments, jewellery, Cats Protection goods including calendars, and enter the much-loved tombola.

Sunday 24 November

Christmas pudding making evening.

Histon Baptist Church (7pm)

Nothing says Christmas like the smell of Christmas pudding ingredients. Chat with friends as you stir for the ultimate pre-Christmas experience.



Saturday 30 November

Royal British Legion Christmas Fayre

RBL Club, Saffron Road (11am–4pm)

Christmas Craft Fair and model railway exhibition presented by Histon & Impington Model Railway Club.



RBL Quiz night

RBL Club, Saffron Road (8pm)

Teams up to six guests welcome.



Histon Handmade

Saint Andrew's Centre, Histon (midday–7pm)

The ever-popular contemporary design and craft fair comes to Histon again. The fair is an ever evolving event and exhibitors are deliberately rotated to ensure that each event is unique, so you can expect to see something different every time. From textiles and jewellery to furniture and ceramics – there are gifts galore. Visit www.histonhandmade.com



Kate Green

Folk tales and Fiddles (Music)

Histon Library (7pm–8pm)

An evening of local folk tales and brilliant contemporary folk music. Marianne Powell, local storyteller, will be telling two Fenland tales – spooky, mysterious and uplifting. Orphean Sprig, instrumental folk band, will bring their trademark arrangements creating a rich texture and original sound. Box office tel. 01353 616991 or visit a library.

Sunday 1 December

Christmas market

Station House Café (10am–2pm)

Wreath making workshops and festive fare with a glass of fizz and nibbles.
www.histonstationhouse.com/christmas



Christmas Messy Church

Salvation Army Hall, Impington Lane (4–6pm)

Free for all families but booking is essential.

Email histon@salvationarmy.org.uk



Bjørn Kibsgaard from Pixabay

Monday 2 December

Conversations About... A Greener Festive Season

Salvation Army Hall, Impington Lane (7.30pm–9pm)

'Conversations About... A Greener Festive Season' is the second in a series of events from Histon and Impington Sustainability Group (HISus).

They say: "It's hard to avoid the fast-paced commercial nature of Christmas. We're offering an antidote; some time to calmly consider your sustainable options for Christmas and New Year. We'll discuss topics such as food choices, Christmas trees, wrapping and of course gifts. Sustainability applies to your energy levels too, so there will be refreshments and practical wrapping ideas!"

HIS Sustainability Group are a group of volunteers bringing the community together to support one another to think globally and act locally. These evenings will be friendly gatherings at which to meet new people, learn new things and figure out how to make climate positive decisions.

Attendance is free with a suggested donation of £3 to cover costs. Turn to page 18 for ideas on green gifts.
www.hisustainability.uk



Congerdesign from Pixabay

Thursday 5 December

Holiday at home Christmas concert

Histon Baptist Church (2.30pm)

All are welcome to an afternoon of classic Christmas favourites featuring Naomi Rogers.

Tickets: Helen@hifriends.org.uk or 07394 173 430

Friday 6 December

Histon Country Market

Histon Baptist Church (9am–midday)

Lovingly hand-made, festive fare for sale. See also Friday 13 December.

Friday 6 and Saturday 7 December

Choir 2000 Concert

Histon Baptist Church (7.30pm)

Musical Director: Chloë Allison
Featuring CSD Brass Band.
Leader: Chris Lawrence
Tickets: £13, available from choir members, at the door, or online:
www.choir2000.org/tickets Under 16s free with an adult.



Christmas at Gin House FLOWERS

Late night shopping evening

A chance to get ahead on your Christmas shopping. Including plenty of drinks, prizes and special offers! Wreath designs ready to pre-order and a chance to see our newly released table centre examples.

Thursday 21 Nov, 6pm – 9pm

Wreath making classes

£60 per person*

*£10 dep deposit payable on booking to secure your space.

Our ever popular Christmas wreath classes are back!

We will provide you with G&T's and enough bubbly to sink a small ship and plenty of snacks to keep you going, as well as everything you will need to create your own fully moss-backed spruce wreath! We can't wait to see what festive beauties you create with us this year!

To book your spot call 01223 656670 or email info@ginhouseflowers.co.uk

www.ginhouseflowers.co.uk

Thurs 28 Nov, 7pm
Fri 29 Nov, 7pm
Sat 30 Nov, 2pm
Tues 3 Dec, 7pm
Wed 4 Dec, 7pm
Thurs 5 Dec, 7pm
Fri 6 Dec, 7pm
Sat 7 Dec, 2pm
Mon 9 Dec, 7pm
Tues 10 Dec, 7pm
Wed 11 Dec, 7pm
Thurs 12 Dec, 7pm

Christmas diary

Saturday 7 December

Library Live: Mosaic Workshop

Histon Library (2pm and 4pm)

Re-cycle and re-purpose to create a unique mosaic masterpiece. Guided by professional mosaic artist Carolyn Ash you'll design, make and grout your own work of art. Arrange shells, tiles, mirror, pottery and beads. Bring along your own broken treasures to include!

Phone Box Office 01353 616991 or visit a library (cash only).



Photo: Carolyn Ash

Histon and Impington Village Society Christmas Coffee Morning

Histon Methodist Church (10am-midday)

Village Society members are invited to the Christmas Coffee Morning. It's an opportunity to enjoy coffee and mince pies while catching up with fellow members. If you're interested in local history and haven't yet joined the society, this is the perfect time to drop by and learn more about what they do.

www.histonandimpingtonvillagesociety.com



Photo: Histon & Impington Village Society

Saturday 7 and Sunday 8 December

HI Friends Christmas weekend

Various locations

Including: Santa Fun Run; Santa's grotto; Christmas Fun afternoon and much more...

Also featuring:

HI Friends Boogie Night

Gropius Hall, Impington Village College (7.30pm-11.30pm)

The band Superstition return to play the Christmas tunes to get people on the dancefloor. Tickets £16 available from www.hifriends.org.uk/community-events/christmas-boogie-night

HI Friends Christmas Tree festival



Histon Methodist Church

As part of the HI Friends Christmas Weekend, Histon Methodist Church will be filled with Christmas trees of all shapes and sizes as village groups present a decorated tree to represent their organisation.

Entrance is free.

www.hifriends.org.uk

Sunday 8 December

Shine at Christmas

Saint Andrew's Centre, Histon (3pm)

Join in with Shine@Christmas where the team will explore the Christmas story, sing Christmas carols, play and get arty and crafty. This is an event for everyone, young and old, individuals and families.



Tuesday 10 December

H&I Garden Club Talk and Christmas party

Histon Methodist Church (7.30pm)

Talk on 'Glorious Gardens from around the world', followed by some festive refreshments for H&I Gardening Club's Christmas party.

histimpgardenclub.wordpress.com

Friday 13 December

Histon Country Market

Histon Baptist Church (9am-midday)

Lovingly hand-made, festive fare for sale.

See also Friday 6 December.



Saturday 14 December

Moonlight Mandolin Orchestra Christmas concert

St Andrew's Church, Histon (7.30pm)

The Moonlight Mandolin Orchestra are performing a joint Christmas concert with local recorder virtuoso Evelyn Nallen.



Sunday 15 December

Pop-Up Nativity

Histon Baptist Church (10.30am)

All are welcome to this family Nativity where everyone gets a chance to partake in a fun and interactive service. There will be a wardrobe of Nativity costumes and props for people of all ages to dress up, Christmas carols to sing and festive refreshments afterwards. Which Nativity character will you be?!

histonbaptist.org.uk





Sunday 15 December

Carols by Candlelight

Histon Baptist Church (6.30pm)

A traditional Carols by Candlelight service. Prof David Rowland from Christ's College, Cambridge will play the organ for some favourite Christmas carols together by candlelight. There will be a short talk during the service and hot mulled wine and mince pies afterwards.

histonbaptist.org.uk

Family Carol service

Salvation Army Hall, Impington Lane (10.30am)

Wednesday 18 December

Carols on the Green

Histon Green (from 6pm)

Choirs from the village schools will be singing at 6pm, followed by the Carols on the Green starting at 6.30pm. All are welcome to this Churches Together annual event. There will also be refreshments available before 6pm.

Thursday 19 December

Women's Institute Christmas celebration

Histon Methodist Church (7.30pm)

Women's Institute (WI) annual Bring and Share supper and Christmas celebration. The WI welcomes women of all ages and visitors are welcome for £5 Entry.

Email hisimpwi@gmail.com



Saturday 21 December

Community Breakfast and Coffee Morning

Salvation Army Hall, Impington Lane

(9.30am-11.30am)

Histon Salvation Army holds a community breakfast and coffee morning on the third Saturday of each month from 9.30am-11.30am. Menu includes a full English breakfast with toast, tea or coffee and juice for £6.

www.salvationarmy.org.uk

Sunday 22 December

Carols by Candlelight

Salvation Army Hall, Impington Lane (4pm)

Carols by Candlelight

St Andrew's Church, Impington (4pm) and St Andrew's Church, Histon (7pm)



Sunday 22 December

Taizé Advent Communion

Histon Baptist Church (10.30am)

Advent Communion service, in the style of Taizé. This will be a quieter and more reflective communion, with a number of simple Taizé chants to sing throughout.

histonbaptist.org.uk

9 Lessons and Carol Service

Histon Methodist Church (11am)

Family-based Carol service

Histon Methodist Church (4.30pm)

Tuesday 24 December

Salvation Army band will be out in the village on Christmas Eve morning, as well as on other Saturday mornings in December.

Crib and Christingle

St Andrew's Church, Impington (3pm)

Christingle

St Andrew's Church, Histon (5pm)

Midnight Holy Communion

At both St Andrew's Churches, Histon and Impington (11pm)

Midnight Service

Histon Methodist Church (11.30pm)

Wednesday 25 December

Christmas Day Holy Communion

St Andrew's Church, Impington (9.30am)

Christmas Cracker Service

St Andrew's Church, Histon (10.30am)

Christmas Day Service

Salvation Army Hall, Impington Lane (10.30am)

An informal time of worship with bacon rolls and coffee served from 9:30am. For catering purposes, please email if you plan to come.

Email histon@salvationarmy.org.uk

Morning Service

Histon Methodist Church (10.30am)

Family Service

Histon Baptist Church (10.30am)

RBL Christmas Day Opening

RBL Club, Saffron Road (midday-2pm)

Friday 27 December

RBL Xmas Cribbage Drive

RBL Club, Saffron Road (7.30pm)

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Focus on local business



Step Inn from the cold – a warm and festive welcome awaits

If Christmas and all its trimmings fills you with dread, a nearby night out or somewhere local to host those visitors could be the solution. Amanda Borrill finds out what special gifts await our community at Impington's Holiday Inn.

For many of us, simply the arrival of mince pies on supermarket shelves in September is enough to light that 'bah humbug' touchpaper but imagine if you had to begin planning for next Christmas while still ploughing your way through that mountain of Quality Street, satsumas and turkey leftovers! Welcome to the festive season – Holiday Inn style.

One of its busiest times of year, the glittering events and appetising festive menus offered at our local hotel don't come without a lot of advance preparation. "Planning begins in January and our chefs start talking turkey in February!", reveals Sales and Special Events Co-ordinator, Maria Briggs. "Feedback from the events just finished is reviewed and work begins with the marketing team on brochures and posters. This year we have introduced something different on our Feature Nights with three selected dates where partygoers can experience the thrill of visiting a fun Casino".

As well as the many party nights on offer, the hotel is also offering relaxed festive lunches and dinners with the option too throughout December of a delicious daily afternoon tea, mince pies included of course - perfect for those who prefer an earlier bedtime.

Get a room!

And for those who do enjoy partying into the small hours, the hotel offers special rates for party bookings in one of their comfortable bedrooms. "As well as a place to crash after dinner, our rooms offer a wonderful place to stay for visiting friends and relatives", adds Maria. "It can often be difficult finding space at home to host everybody, so why not let us make up those beds instead! Give us a call and see if we can accommodate."



While guests are partying their festive socks off, behind the scenes staff will be working long and often anti-social hours looking after everyone and I asked Maria how it feels to be working while everyone else is having fun. "For many of the team, it is also fun", she smiled. "Guests become part of our family. There is an amazing atmosphere, everyone is in a good mood and, of course, there are mince pies, and plenty of them!"

Of course, it is not just the hospitality industry that works throughout the festivities and the Holiday Inn is very aware that, for many, getting together in December can be difficult or even impossible. So for those unable to get out in December, the hotel will be hosting opportunities in January to kick back and relax after the stresses of looking after so many others. Email the hotel to find out more.

More than just a piece of the scenery

General Manager, Robin Hutton, has worked in the hospitality industry for several decades and is keen to welcome more

residents from the local community. "We would love to become a 'go-to' choice for villagers. It would be wonderful to become more than just that building everyone drives past on their way out of the village and what better excuse than a Christmas outing to drop in and experience what we have to offer. As well as parties and dinners, we can also offer a stylish and professional venue for those valued business meetings."

"We would love to see more visitors from across Histon & Impington this Christmas", agrees Maria. We can offer you a warm welcome, cosy fireplace, great atmosphere and some really fabulous party nights. Why not gather some friends together and book in for New Year's Eve? Our gala dinner promises to be a fantastic way to see in 2025".

Full details of Festive events can be found by visiting the Holiday Inn website <https://www.ihg.com/holidayinn/hotels/gb/en/cambridge/cbgim/hoteldetail> or email specialevents@hicambridge.co.uk or telephone 0371 942 9015.

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Where to... | find festive food

Christmas café culture

Looking to liven up your lunch this Christmas? Arranging a festive get-together with friends? Lucy Callington discovers delicious festive food on our doorstep.

Christmas is fast upon us and the run-up to the festive season offers a fantastic opportunity for you to up your lunch game and pick up something seasonal and tasty in the village. We're spoiled for choice in Histon and Impington with eateries, restaurants and cafés just a short walk or bike ride away.

Plus our local eateries offer the perfect way to unwind and enjoy festive food without the hassle of cooking or cleaning up. And by visiting local cafés, you support small businesses in your community, which is especially important during festive times.

Here is the *HILights* low-down on what festive treats each one has in store to brighten your brunch...

1) Station House Café

Station Road, Impington

The popular Impington café in the former station building has a host of festive offerings. Look out for its Christmas market on Sunday 1 December, where you can buy festive fare. There will also be wreath making workshops in the early evening with a glass of fizz and nibbles.

The café will also be serving a festive afternoon tea, which will be available most days, and watch out for late night opening on Thursdays and Fridays in December – the perfect place for an after-work Christmas Party! Station House will be closed for a festive break from 25-27 December.

Visit www.histonstationhouse.com/christmas or email info@histonstationhouse.com for more information.



2) D:Licious Sandwich Bar

Vision Park, Histon

Take the chill out of winter days with a hot drink wrapped up beside the pond at Vision Park. In addition to the usual freshly baked-on-site baguettes, pastries and jacket potatoes, D:Licious will be rolling out their tasty festive panini this Christmas. The turkey, stuffing, bacon and cranberry panini will be on offer for a limited time.

Plus Musa and the team offer a free local delivery service for buffets and corporate Christmas lunches and any breakfast or lunch orders over £10 within Histon and Impington.

Visit www.d-licious.org to find out more

3) Saint Andrew's Café

School Hill, Histon

Head to the popular community café where they will be serving a range of Christmas themed treats all December, including homemade mince pies and traditional Christmas cake. There will also be a turkey and cranberry special sandwich available throughout the month so you can catch up with friends and get Christmassy at the same time!



The café will also be open in the evening to coincide with the Histon Handmade craft fair on 30 November. Plus don't miss the opportunity to enter the café's Christmas competition to win a gingerbread house!

Visit www.standrewscentre.org.uk/cafe/

4) Barkers

High Street, Histon

Local bakery, Barkers on the High Street in Histon will be getting into the Christmas spirit too. Pop in throughout the festive period and they will make up sandwiches of your choice

including a turkey, cranberry and stuffing option. For dessert, pick up a Christmas themed cookie or cake. Or you can order a hand-decorated celebration cake for your festive celebrations.

Visit www.barkers-bakery.co.uk

5) Tawa Lounge

20, The Green, Histon

Tawa Lounge has proved very popular since first opening its doors in 2023. Born out of a desire to merge



South-East Asian cuisine with the comfort and community spirit of the local eatery, the lounge's menu is inspired by gastro pub cuisine. Local owners, Nalin and Vilas are keen to share their culinary passion and home cuisine with their local village.

Tawa Lounge will offer a Christmas menu from 3-24 December - a choice of a two or three course menu with both traditional and South-East Indian inspired dishes for the best of both worlds this Christmas. You can also book the function room upstairs for your Christmas or new year party.

Visit <https://tawalounge.co.uk>

6) Stir

10 School Hill, Histon

Stir is one of the village's go-to places to meet friends and chat over coffee or brunch. This Christmas you can choose from a selection of handcrafted treats including mince pies, panettone, gingerbread cookies and more.

Look out for warming wintry hot drinks too, such as seasonal hot chocolates – something to warm up with while Christmas shopping locally. Plus you can buy baked goods as gifts in store or online.

Visit www.yourstir.co.uk



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Histon Library opening hours

	Staffed	Open+ access
Monday	11am – 7pm	8am – 11am
Tuesday	2pm – 5pm	8am – 2pm
Wednesday	Closed	Closed
Thursday	9am – 5pm	8am – 9am
Friday	9am – 1pm	8am – 9am and 1.15pm – 7pm
Saturday	9am – 1pm	1.15pm – 4pm
Sunday	Closed	10am – 4pm

Christmas Opening hours:

Tuesday 24 December library will be Open+ until 1pm then closed

Wednesday 25 December Closed

Thursday 26 December Closed

Friday 27 – Tuesday 31 December 2024 10 – 4pm Open+

Wednesday 1 January 2025 Closed

Thursday 2 January onwards Normal hours resume



SDC

Bin collection dates

Friday	Black Bin	Blue Bin	Green Bin
1 November 2024		✓	✓
8 November 2024	✓		
15 November 2024		✓	✓
22 November 2024	✓		
29 November 2024		✓	✓
6 December 2024	✓		
13 December 2024		✓	
20 December 2024	✓		
Saturday 28 December 2024		✓	
3 January 2025	✓		
10 January 2025		✓	✓
17 January 2025	✓		
24 January 2025		✓	
31 January 2025	✓		
7 February 2025		✓	✓
14 February 2025	✓		
21 February 2025		✓	
28 February 2025	✓		

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Living Local |

A Choir is not just for Christmas...

Nothing rings in the festive season like a choir singing carols round a roaring fire, but as the members of four H&I choirs will tell you, singing together brings joy all year round... not just at Christmas.

The Impingtones

Sarah Strickland has been singing with the Impingtones since 2016 and joined the committee in 2020. She tells *HILights*: "I've enjoyed being part of the team that makes the choir happen. Our members range in age from their 20s to their 80s. There's no upper limit, but you must be 18 or over to join the choir."

Meeting weekly in term time, on Wednesday evenings at Park Primary School, from 6.30 to 7.30pm, the Impingtones sing a variety of music, including songs from musicals, folk and pop, learning from printed booklets and sheets.

Sarah tells us: "Some members read music, but you don't need to; most learn by ear. Once you join we provide a music folder with everything you need and access to the

music on the website, where practice tracks are available. We are pretty informal but are committed to learning the music chosen for us by our music director, Bridget Hardy."

Members pay by the term and, as the Impingtones is a not-for-profit organisation, any money they make goes back into the choir, including social events and workshops. The choir often performs informally in the villages and elsewhere at events such as Histon Feast or Open Gardens.

The Impingtones are gearing up to celebrate their 10 year anniversary and those who have been involved in the last decade give the experience rave reviews. Choir member Sue says: "I find the hour of choir a great relaxation time, where I can forget about everything and just focus on singing. The Impingtones is a community choir and I really do feel a part of this wonderful community. It doesn't matter what kind of day I've had, I come away from each session feeling uplifted, positive and energised."

If you fancy joining in with this shared joy, there's no need to audition. Sarah confirms:

"We ask potential new members to fill in our online form and attend a free taster session. Offering a warm welcome to new starters who want to come along and sing, and in common with most choirs, the Impingtones tend to be short of tenor and bass voices, so you'll find an especially warm welcome if that's you!"

Meets Wednesdays, 6.30–7.30pm at Park Primary School

Visit <https://impingtones.wordpress.com>

CHOIR 2000

Susie Savage was tempted to join Choir 2000 back in 2009, when she happened to be passing the Baptist Church one evening and popped inside on an impulse. Fast forward 15 years and she is still loving the experience of singing together as a group.

Susie shares: "It's such a pleasure to make new friends, explore pieces of music together and work as a team. I love that it's something completely different to my daily life and it requires concentration and focus in our increasingly frantic world.

"I hadn't experienced much classical music in the past, so being in the choir opened my eyes to some amazing pieces by composers like Verdi, Mozart and Handel, as well as enjoying carols every year. And I have made some wonderful friends along the way."

As with the Impingtones, you don't need to audition to be in Choir 2000, but you do need to be over 18. All adults are welcome and the choir has several octogenarians on its roll. The only limit placed on who can join is the number of members who can fit on the stage



Impingtones



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Choir 2000

to perform at the same time – so it operates a waiting list.

Prospective singers can come for a trial session where they will buddy up with a more experienced singer at a rehearsal at Histon Baptist Church. Susie enthuses: “Our musical director, Chloe Allison is absolutely fantastic; she’s so enthusiastic and patient and she brings out the best in us. We have three terms each year with about ten weekly rehearsals, and we then perform the piece in two concerts, often with a small orchestra. In the summer we perform at West Road Concert Hall which is a real thrill. It’s so exciting to perform live with a group of musicians in such a wonderful venue.”

Choir 2000 took its name from the year it was founded and, as such, is coming up to its 25th anniversary year. Look out for upcoming highlights including singing with CSD Brass Band in December and singing Verdi’s Requiem in June 2025 as part of the celebrations.

Meets Wednesdays, 7.30–9.45pm, Histon Baptist Church

Visit www.choir2000.org

Ten Sing

For the younger members of the Histon & Impington community, Ten Sing offers a chance to sing and socialise together. Open to anyone aged 11–18 years, Ten Sing originates from Norway and the literal translation means ‘teenagers sing.’ The local group is currently the only Ten Sing group in the UK.

It is led by the young people themselves and activities include singing, dance, drama, and music – all aimed at promoting confidence, friendships, and wellbeing. Everyone is welcome, whatever their faith or world view. Meeting at Histon Baptist Church, the group perform concerts, fundraising events, trips and team-building sessions throughout the year. They have even been on trips to Norway and hosted European Ten Sing visitors from the Czech Republic and Norway. One young person describes the choir as: “a way to unwind after school, and have fun with friends and meet new people.”

“It’s a way to unwind after school, have fun with friends and meet new people.”

Bonny Rogers, who has been involved with the group for ten years tells us: “Ten Sing is a safe space for young people to express themselves and talk through their experiences with peers. It also helps them with transitions – such as new schools – as there is always someone older to talk to. I feel privileged to support the young people and witness the growth of their talents and confidence during their time at Ten Sing.”



Meets at Histon Baptist Church on Thursdays from 7–9pm
Contact cambridgetensing@gmail.com

We Are Sound

Slightly further afield, but with many members from Histon & Impington, We Are Sound is run by Andrea Cockerton. Going down a less traditional route, hers is less a choir and more a musical collective.

She says: “Our aim is to sit in the middle of formal choirs that sing complex music but can be a bit too pressured, community choirs that sing easy music, and bands that have all the fun but are not open to all. We go out of our comfort zone and it’s not stuffy. We sing cool music, and our concerts feel like gigs!”

Again there is no audition to join We Are Sound and it has certainly proved popular with members and audiences alike in the 15 years it has been going. Andrea confirms: “We’re pretty much full now for female voices, but are running a waiting list... and we do still have a couple of spaces left for gents, so if you’re interested do get in touch.”

Meets Mondays and Tuesdays, 7.30–9.15pm, Hills Road Cambridge

Visit www.we-are-sound.com



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Read your Greens!



Photo from Pixabay

Christmas is a great time to share the gift of reading, but no one wants to add to landfill by buying new copies of books. Here Laura from H&I Sustainability shares her top tips on how to gift sustainably, and finding books... with a conscience.

If you give a book as a gift this Christmas – why not make it really count?

The words of other people – more experienced and knowledgeable – can help us understand how we arrived in the climate and environmental crisis we find ourselves in. Reading can strengthen our emotional capabilities and empathy and even make us more resilient. We can read about the experience of others – people, plants, animals –

and thereby increase our understanding of the planet's connections.

Books also fire up our imagination, so we can envisage alternative scenarios and start to take action in our lives and communities. Conversations about the books can also encourage others to make changes too. Now, that's exciting!

If you only send one book, send this

***The Future We Choose: Surviving the Climate Crisis* by Christiana Figueres and Tom Rivett-Carnac**

Christiana and Tom worked for the UN and led the historic Paris 2015 Agreement. Right from the start you know you're reading the words of bone fide experts on the topic and it feels like they're holding your hand as they tell some hard truths about the world we're currently making, then bring you in for a hug with their description of the world we must create. They finish the book with 10 actions we can all do to bring about change. They are surprising actions and some, you're unlikely to have heard anywhere else.

For Attenborough fans

***A Life on Our Planet* by David Attenborough**

You can imagine David Attenborough reading this aloud with his quiet, yet firm insistence on matters. Easy to read and with examples of people working to implement solutions, this book is a call for action from one of our most well-known and loved naturalists.

Laura's Top Tips for Christmas book shopping:

Local charity shops

I've found some amazing books in our local charity shops. Try the Salvation Army, Emmaus and Burleigh Street's many charity shops.

Send a book token

National book tokens are printed on FSC certified board or they have an e-card option.

Under wraps

Why not gift books wrapped in newspaper, fabric or re-used wrapping paper? For while you may have wrapped a physical book, you're giving the gift of knowledge, connection and hope.

For more details on H&I Sustainability Group visit www.hisustainability.uk

For keen travellers

***Zero Altitude* by Helen Coffey** A humorous read about the journey of Helen Coffey, a travel journalist, as she embarks on her biggest challenge yet – travelling without flying. The stories of her experiences of alternative means of transport across the UK, Europe and Africa, are peppered with tips and tricks including websites for accessing more information. It leaves you wanting to follow her example.

For mental health

***The Natural Health Service* by Isabel Hardman**

Isabel writes of her experience of suffering mental ill-health alongside examples of how nature can truly help people with mental health problems. Can we begin to prescribe ourselves more nature and feel the benefits?

***Losing Eden* by Lucy Jones** This is an easy-to-read explanation as to why we need to engage with the wilder, natural world and the numerous benefits when we do.

For business owners

***Rebuild: how to thrive in the new kindness economy* by Mary Portas**

Our money can bring about change because of where we spend it. Mary Portas brings her experience of moving from being immersed in an economy focused on capitalism, to one of kindness. If you're involved in a business there are some actions you can follow, or if you're a consumer it gives ideas of what to look for in kind businesses.

***Doughnut Economics* by Kate Raworth** This is a more economically detailed read about the importance of changing the values that our economies are built on.

For tree lovers

***The Mother Tree* by Suzanne Simard**

Suzanne writes about her discovery of fungal connections between trees, and how the trees and fungi cooperate to allow each other to flourish. A fantastic book about community, connections and fighting for the truth.

For those who like numbers

***How Bad Are Bananas?* by Mike Berners-Lee**

This is a book of climate change impact – in numbers. If you want to know the carbon footprint of a latte, flying or your food shop, this is the book for you. It's got lots of ideas for how to reduce your carbon footprint as well.



For those who prefer fiction

Any Human Power by Manda Scott Despite upsetting subject matter, this will definitely fuel your imagination about how democracy can be reimagined; how family can come together and how conversations can cause change.

The Year Without Summer by Guinevere Glasfurd

Guinevere Glasfurd Guinevere – a Waterbeach author – wrote this historical fiction book about the 1815 eruption of Mount Tambora. She was inspired by real events to write this fictional account of what might have happened: a climate crisis story from the past, but also for now.

Great gifts for children

I recommend books that are about children out in nature, so kids feel inspired to go outside and explore. By getting to know their local wild first, they can more deeply understand the global wild. If you buy a book and are able, promise to read it to them outside in nature.

For teens, you could try reading the adult books recommended above yourself and

reading passages to them or engaging them in “I’ve just read this fact...” conversations. Leave your climate crisis books lying around and let them know you are trying your best to make conscious choices.

Picture Books

The Keeper of Wild Words by Brooke Smith

This is a story book with the same inspiration as The Lost Words by Robert Macfarlane: the removal of nature words from the dictionary.

A Perfect Day for Digging by Cari Best

A lovely story about a girl digging in the dirt!

What Can You Do With A Rock by Pat Zietlow Miller

Miller Children always pick things up! This story is about rocks and people, and what you can learn from both!

Greta and the Giants by Zoë Tucker and Zoe Persico

Zoe Persico A good book for children who already know about Greta Thunberg, and a lovely message for adults who need to slow down.

Song of the River by Joy Cowley A story of the discovery of a river from its source to mouth.

Chapter Books

Swallows and Amazons and Swallowdale by Arthur Ransome Classics for very good reason! Lovely gentle stories about the adventures of children on their summer holidays camping on an island without adults.

The Girl Who Rowed the Ocean by Alastair Humphreys Drawing on his own experience rowing across the ocean, Alastair has written this exciting adventure story of a young girl doing the same. Facts are woven into the story. Humphreys has written other children’s books that are also excellent.

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Spotlight | Tales from history

Ghosts of Christmases past

Bellringers on strike, a fire at the farm, a bogus refugee claim and effluent entering the parish ditches – press coverage from Decembers in years gone by shows that this month has not passed by without incident. This glimpse into some of the more eye-catching moments in the history of Histon and Impington is taken from Mike Petty's *Histon and Impington Scrapbook 1897 to 1990*, which he describes as “a compendium of facts, features and (occasional) fallacies reported in Cambridge newspapers” since the end of the 19th century.
www.mikepetty.org.uk

1901 (18 December)

While the Green End residents of Histon were peacefully sleeping, the Church End villagers were rudely awakened from their slumbers by a man shouting “Fire! Fire!! Help! Help!” They found Mr Smith Rowley’s farm buildings were issuing volumes of flames to a considerable height above the well-known massive trees in the Manor grounds. Villagers came upon the scene, closely followed by seven or eight county constables who were attracted to the scene by the flames that lit up the sky. Little could be done as the big barn and other buildings were enveloped. Rats by the hundreds ran from the buildings enveloped in flames, presenting a peculiar sight of ‘balls of fire’ hopping over the grass which was white with frost.

David Berry

16 December 1902 – A trouser incident for Mr Vials, landlord of The Boot

1902 (16 December)

The landlord of the Boot Inn, Histon had the very nasty experience of being tossed by an infuriated bullock at Cambridge Cattle Market. The animal, a Scottish beast with very long horns, was being driven into a pen when it broke away, caught Mr Vials with its horns and threw him over the rails into one of the pens. The horns penetrated his trousers and made a scratch about seven inches long. The wild beast was eventually safely secured and sold to Mr Mills of Cambridge without being brought into the auction ring.

1907 (21 December)

The Histon P.S.A. string band has been in existence 12 years. It is composed of Histonians only, and amateurs at that, but under the baton of Mr F. Frohock they have gained much success. Concert giving is however only a secondary object, the primary one being that of helping the Rev R. Smith with his men’s meetings, when they give selections such as the Hallelujah Chorus in a masterly style.

1907 (27 December)

Upon Christmas Eve an inquiry was held into the sad circumstances of the death of an engine driver in the employ of the Midland Railway Company. A family man who lived at Kettering, he was instantaneously killed by a passing train at Histon Station as he was about to be relieved from duty. About half the train passed over the body and his scalp was cut clean off.

1908 (11 December)

It is many decades since the south face of the church clock at Histon was painted or even washed. Some say the dial has not been washed since the flood of 1879 but others think it has been gilded more recently. But at present the figures are practically erased whereas they used to be discernible from Park Lane. Some face paints easily wash off but hopefully the next renovator will use a better paint and gilt.



11 December 1908 – Don't skimp on the paint...

1911 (22 December)

William Macfarlane-Grieve of Impington Park sued the Great Eastern Railway over trees and shrubs which were destroyed by fire caused by sparks or cinders from locomotive engines used on the railway at Histon. During the abnormally dry season the plantations had been set alight eight or nine times. He had seen a train pulled by a red Midland engine, number 134. Directly it passed, a fire broke out and he'd picked up cinders from the engine. He was awarded damages. It was the first action under the Railway Fires Act passed in 1905.

1914 (18 December)

Jane Pegg, wife of an Impington coal merchant, said she saw a man at Histon station wearing a blue overcoat similar to the greatcoats of the Belgian soldiers. He told he was from Hills Road Hospital; he'd been wounded at Liege where his father was killed by his side. Feeling sorry, she'd given him a meal and invited him to stay for the weekend. But really he was a butcher from St Ives. The lad said he'd return to his mother and promise to be a good boy. But he was sent to prison with hard labour.

1917 (18 December)

Histon had a hare raid of its own on Tuesday afternoon. One of these animals made its appearance in the High Street, near the “Gables” and ran the length of the street to the Green, where it took refuge by swimming the brook. It was compelled to swim back across the brook by dogs, and after an exciting chase was eventually killed by one of the soldiers engaged in cleaning operations there.



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18 December 1917 – The Histon Hare took refuge by swimming the brook



29 December 1926 - Handcranked chaindriven wheelchair, by Richards(?)¹, Science Museum Group Collection

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1919 (10 December)

Parishioner writes: "May I be allowed to call attention to the old church clock? Residents, chiefly those living and working at the Church End, do miss and more than miss the old clock striking out the hour which has always been a great boon and convenience. The clock and, if necessary, the wherewithal would be raised in less than a trice. If the churchwardens or responsible authorities could remedy this small matter it could doubtless be put in order, many would be grateful.

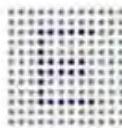
1926 (8 December)

There have been complaints of certain effluent entering the parish ditches at Histon and Impington and Messrs Chivers had approached Cambridge Borough Council to draw up a scheme whereby sewage could be taken by means of pipes to the Cambridge sewage farm. The parish council had not been asked to be parties and it raised the question whether they should work jointly with Chivers. It would cost a considerable amount of money. There had been

talk of Histon and Impington being taken over by the Borough of Cambridge. If so the cost would be borne by the whole of the people in it, to the great advantage of the village. Extensive building was going on and it would not be long before they built up to the boundary.

1926 (29 December)

Mr J.G. Davies of Histon had another long jaunt on his two-speed hand-propelled invalid chair just before Christmas. He left Histon intending to go to Manchester but when he arrived at Leicester decided to come back again. A considerable part of the journey was done by night and he had several little adventures on the road including a collision with a milestone and being thrice stopped by tramps, one of whom threatened violence. "He became so wild that as I could not defend myself very well in my chair I had to resort to the gun which I carry with me on these little journeys and, pulling it out, I threatened him with it, so he cleared off, to my relief", he said..



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Meet the neighbours

Swavesey Camera Club

Click and Connect

Photos: Penny Reeves



In the second of our 'Meet the Neighbours' series, Lucy Callington chats to Penny Reeves about Swavesey Camera Club and the art of capturing moments.

A quick glance at local Facebook pages will tell you that Histon & Impington is not short of photographers, both amateur and professional, and there is no shortage of photogenic wildlife and scenery to capture either – but the one thing it currently lacks is a photography group.

That's where Swavesey Camera Club (SCC) comes in. Boasting several Histon & Impingtonites on its membership roll, the club is a haven for photography lovers and art enthusiasts.

Heritage

SCC has operated for over 40 years and meets at Swavesey Village College from 7–9pm on Thursday evenings during term time. Meetings are sometimes held via Zoom if, for example a guest speaker lives a long way away, such as a recent speaker, who gave a talk from his home in Istanbul on the city's forgotten architectural wonders. The club hosts an exhibition each year in the Spring where all members have the opportunity to show a selection of their images as prints and digital images, with subject matter ranging from the natural world and architecture to Dua Lipa in concert and Hawker Hurricane aircraft in flight.

Who can join?

Membership is open to anyone, whatever the level of experience. Current members range from the very experienced to complete

beginners; members for whom photography is a passion and those who just like to come along and see some interesting pictures; members who have high-end cost-a-fortune digital cameras; and members who simply use their mobile phone cameras.

Weekly meetings are also social occasions, allowing plenty of time for coffee and a chat. There are outings to various places of interest such as Orford Ness on the Suffolk coast, and workshops with professional photographers – open to all members, whatever their level of experience. There's also the obligatory Christmas party and quiz, plus an annual dinner at the end of the season in late Spring.

Expertise on hand

There are about 50 members in total, which gives a good spread of experience in different photographic genres, so there is always someone on hand to offer advice. There are regular critique evenings via Zoom to give feedback on members' images, in particular any images that members are thinking of entering into club competitions. These are sociable and 'chatty' sessions where constructive criticism is shared – and everyone's opinion is valid!

The club also runs an annual pairs competition, where a less experienced photographer is paired up with a more experienced one, and the pair go out and shoot a subject (agreed between them) together and then process it together. It's generally agreed that the so-called 'experienced' half of the pair often learns as much as the less experienced partner.

A local perspective

Histon resident and accredited East Anglian Federation camera club judge Penny Reeves joined Swavesey Camera Club five years ago. She shares her insights here.



Where do you get inspiration from?

I joined SCC to challenge myself to photograph things I normally wouldn't attempt. We have three set subject competitions each year to shoot for. This year the topics are 'Broken, abandoned or damaged'; 'Weather'; and 'Sports and pastimes'.

Inspiration is everywhere. We're lucky to have sites such as Fen Drayton Lakes nearby for landscape – beautiful on misty or frosty winter mornings – Cambridge and Ely for architecture and street photography, and nature reserves such as Welney, Wicken and Fowlmere for wildlife. Plus of course it's always possible to find subjects in our own homes for macro and studio photography. Gin House Flowers are used to me popping in to pick up some floral subjects to photograph at home!

What's the most photogenic thing in H&I?

My personal challenge is to photograph the village green in as many ways as possible that make it look like a rural idyll. And of course, for anyone into nature photography, the ultimate challenge is to take a really good shot of the turtle doves up at the Croft Close nature reserve. For those into documentary or street photography, we have a good calendar of local events to shoot.

What do you get out of photography as a hobby?

For me it's absolutely necessary to be creative, so photography satisfies that. I find that I get so immersed in the process of whatever I'm photographing that I completely forget everything else – a true 'flow' experience, and therefore utterly relaxing. It's also good to spend time in the company of people who share my passion.

Is photography for everyone?

Yes! Come along to a SCC meeting – the first one is free and doesn't commit you to anything. Don't feel that you can't call yourself a photographer because you have no experience or no expensive kit. I've seen mobile phone shots win serious competitions. My advice would be to have an enquiring mind: when you see an image you like, take a moment to just enjoy it, and then ask yourself what it is that makes you like it. That's absolutely the best way to learn.

Visit the website to view the programme for the season swaveseycameraclub.co.uk/index.html and check out Penny's personal portfolio at pennyreeves.myportfolio.com

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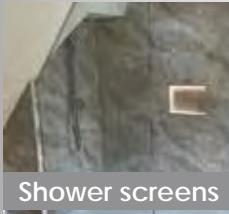
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Feature review

In case you missed it, here is a feature that first appeared in HI HUB which may be of use to you this Christmas.



How to beat festive fraudsters

Whether you're online shopping, donating to charity or securing a loan, Christmas brings opportunities for criminals to get their hands on your cash. Rachel Carr, Cambridgeshire Constabulary Fraud and Cyber Crime Prevention Officer shares how to protect yourself from seasonal scammers.

1) Faulty goods: Online sales are booming, but sadly, so is online crime. Buyers should be wary of bogus websites and counterfeit goods.

- Use a trusted retailer's official website and buy direct if you can – to guarantee you can return items and receive a refund
- If you are ordering from a third-party website, check the terms and conditions (Ts&Cs), including delivery, returns and insurance to make sure the company is legitimate
- Make sure your antivirus software is up to date to flag suspicious sites

2) Charity fraud: Christmas is also a time when charities ask for donations. Most of these requests are legitimate, but sadly fraudsters may take advantage of your charitable nature and help themselves to your cash.

- If donating online, visit the charity website directly
- Do not respond to requests through money transfer companies
- Consider other ways of donating, such as over the phone or in person

3) Romance fraud: People often turn to online dating during the festive season. Dating scammers build a bond with someone online, leading them to believe they are in a relationship before asking for money.

- Never send money to someone you haven't met
- Use trusted dating sites and be wary of anyone who wants to take the conversation away from the platform
- Beware of fake photos and videos – a Google reverse image search will show you if a profile picture has been used before



Gerd Altmann from Pixabay

4) Loan fraud: Christmas can be expensive, so it's understandable that people turn to loans to help with the cost. Loan frauds involve a person applying for a loan being told to pay an upfront fee to cover the insurance, then sadly the victim never hears from the company again...

- Only borrow from legitimate and trusted lenders, such as your bank
- Be wary of loan providers who charge an upfront fee
- Consider setting a small amount of money aside each month to help pay for festivities

5) Ticketing fraud: 'Tis the season for enjoying yourself! But beware bogus websites selling fake tickets to events that have already sold out.

- Buy tickets from official websites displaying the padlock symbol, or directly from the venue
- Be wary of sites cheaper tickets. If it seems too good to be true, it probably is
- Pay for tickets on your credit card to ensure you are protected by the Consumer Credit Act

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Feature review |

6) Holiday fraud: Many of us book a Christmas holiday. Fraudsters sometimes list holiday homes and hotels online at bargain prices when they don't actually exist.

- Scammers use photos of accommodation copied from other sites. Carry out a Google image search
- Contact the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA) to check the person's credentials
- Research the property yourself

7) Money transfer fraud: Fraudsters take advantage of the chaos around Christmas time. However tempted you may be, never transfer money directly into a seller's bank account. There are plenty of genuine sellers out there, but be aware fraudsters persuading people to transfer money for products that don't exist.

- Never send a money transfer for online purchases
- Never provide your banking information to people or businesses you don't know

8) Christmas e-card scams: While most Christmas e-cards are genuine, cyber criminals can create their own festive e-card, which, once opened, can install malware on your device enabling the scammers to collect your personal data.

- If you get an e-card from an unknown email address or someone you don't know, delete it
- If you believe your electronic device has been infected, report any money lost or suspicious activity to your bank

9) Quishing scams: Quishing, also known as QR code phishing, involves tricking someone into scanning a phony QR code which then takes them to a fraudulent website that might download malware.

- If the QR is on a poster in a public area, check whether it appears to have been stuck over the poster, window or billboard
- If in doubt... download the app or search the website on your phone's internet browser, rather than scanning a code. It takes longer, but it's more secure

10) Social media scams: Beware fraudsters on social media advertising festive giveaways and offers, designed to encourage you to click on phony adverts and bogus sites.

- Consider the amount of personal information posted on your social media, as fraudsters can use this
- If you click on a social media advert, do necessary checks before buying anything from the website you land on

11) Malware fraud: Tech is the gift of choice for many at Christmas, but is a cyber-criminal's dream! Fraudsters can infect devices through malicious apps or infected website URLs.

- Have the latest version of software installed
- Only download apps from official stores like Google Play and Apple Store and avoid clicking on links from unknown sources

12) Auction fraud: Auction sites such as eBay and Vinted are a great way to buy gifts. While most sellers are genuine, some are looking to make a quick buck at your expense.

- Use recommended methods of payment rather than transferring money direct to a seller
- Research the seller before you bid. Check their feedback but be mindful it can be falsified
- Be cautious when buying from sellers abroad or private individuals. If in doubt, back out...

Cambridgeshire Constabulary's top anti-burglar tips

- Tell friends or neighbours if your house is unoccupied and ask them to close blinds or curtains at night
- Don't put presents under the tree until Christmas day. Keep them hidden so they are not a temptation for burglars
- Break down packaging and put it in the bin, not beside it. Burglars target properties where they see expensive gifts have been opened
- Leave radios or lights on a timer, to make your home appear occupied – or invest in security cameras or doorbells
- Make sure gifts and shopping bags are not visible in your car
- If you're expecting deliveries, make sure they're not left outside your door
- Keep your home locked

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If you would like to talk to one of our Chartered Financial Planners, please contact us on 01223 233331 or email info@mmwealth.co.uk for advice.

Disclaimer

Opinions constitute our judgment as of this date and are subject to change without warning. The value of investments and the income from them can go down as well as up, and you may not recover the amount of your original investment. The information in this article does not constitute a personal recommendation. The Financial Conduct Authority does not regulate estate planning.

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Getting to know... Hilary Chambers

Professionally,
Hilary Chambers is a recruitment manager for the NHS, but she is probably better known to scores of children locally (many of whom are now grown-ups) as Akela, the Leader of First Histon Cubs. Impington born and bred, Hilary lives with her husband Andy, and is proud to have been involved in the scouting movement for 40 years. She is quick to tell HILights that she started very young!



Inspired by her late father, Peter Foster, who was Akela of the same Wednesday pack for years, Hilary helped out at Cubs one week to gain a Guide Badge and ended up never leaving. She tells us there is a fantastic group of leaders in her pack, and across the First Histon Scout Group. There are even plans afoot to take the Cubs and Beavers, along with Hardwick and Bar Hill Cubs, to Disneyland Paris in April 2025.

First ever job/paid work?

I was a Saturday Girl in Snob in Cambridge. It was one of the best fashion shops at that time and oddly, Disco Kenny used to visit quite often. I didn't know he was a well-known character in town and he frightened the life out of me!

Which superpower would you like?

Instant travel so I could visit family and friends who live overseas and are too far away to meet for a day.

Best holiday ever?

Having worked in the travel industry, I've been lucky to have so many amazing holidays. A

few places I've been to are Brazil, Thailand, Kenya, USA, Mexico, Cuba, Dubai/Abu Dhabi and Australia – but I now have the cruising bug. Cruising is a great way to visit a few places in one holiday and we had our honeymoon on a Caribbean cruise visiting eight beautiful islands. I'd love to do a cruise to Alaska and also see the Northern Lights up close.

First car?

A mini, the original one with a little sports wheel and go faster stripes. It was a great little car until one day it decided to drive itself – which was a little scary!

Guilty pleasure?

I love going for lunch at the Savoy Grill. Any excuse to celebrate something.

Cat or dog?

Dog. I'm a golden labrador girl and have had them all my life. We lost Charlie at the end of 2022 at the grand old age of nearly 17.

Historic heroes?

Queen Elizabeth II for her service and dedication. She was such an amazing lady. Closer to home, (not so historic but older!) my Dad, who encouraged me, and handed over the Cub Pack to me when he retired. He carried on supporting me running the pack – and even supported my crazy ideas to take them abroad.

How your partner/friends would describe you?

Organised, loyal and fun (I hope!)

Beer or wine?

Wine, but I do like the odd glass of Champagne...

Favourite ever shoes?

When I'm not wearing sensible shoes at Cubs I do like Kurt Geiger high heels with a bit of sparkle. They're not very suitable for camping though.

Favourite band?

Varied, from classic rock like Queen, to pop, like Wham and Steps.

Film or theatre or TV?

I love going to see shows in the West End when I can. I have recently seen Fawlty Towers the play and A Chorus Line. Both were brilliant – one a comedy, the other a musical.

What last made you angry?

Having our house broken into and my Dad and Grandad's military medals and Dad's long service Scouting medals stolen – not to mention the mess. Sadly they have never been recovered. People kindly shared the pictures on social media and the police have investigated, but the medals are still out there somewhere. Hopefully one day they will be returned.

Actor to play you in a film of your life?

Sandra Bullock... She seems crazy enough to fit in with my life!

Most successful sporting moment?

I can't think of a personal one, but I'm very good at supporting the Cubs in District and County competitions, which they have won for many years. I'm a very proud Akela!

Best thing about Histon & Impington?

The great community spirit. It is a very friendly village with so much to do for all ages and interests.

Worst thing about Histon & Impington?

Thankfully, I can't think of anything!

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